

U.S. Application No.: 10/035,168
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-32 and 36-51 are pending. The Applicants thank Examiner Feely for indicating that the subject matter of Claims 20-22, 24-28, 30-32 and 51 is allowed and for his suggestions about how to revise the remaining claims to place them in condition for allowance.

The editorial amendments above track these suggestions. Product Claims 17 and 47 have been limited to substrates which are not polycarbonate plastic. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 7, line 21. Other minor changes have been made to clarify claim terms. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added. Favorable consideration of this amendment and allowance of this application is now respectfully requested.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 13 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. As suggested in the Official Action, these claims have been further clarified. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 36, 4-19, and 37-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. As suggested in the Official Action, these claims have been amended to incorporate intervening limitations previously described by Claim 5 and thus provide antecedent basis for the term “acid or base”. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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Rejection—35 U.S.C. §§102/103

Claims 17 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over, Humphrey, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 4,235,954. The Applicants submit that this rejection may be withdrawn in view of the exclusion of the polycarbonate substrates disclosed by Humphrey, Jr. from these claims. The prior patent is directed to substrates which are polycarbonates, see the Abstract (first two lines) and the Description of the Invention (col. 1, lines 58-61 and col. 2, 19-*et seq.*). There is no suggestion in Humphrey, Jr. for a process involving other types of plastic substrates. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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